

# Hawaii MARINE LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

MAY 25, 2007



Members of the United States Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps practice before the start of the concert.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Lively, percussionist, Marine Forces Pacific Band, performs “Inchon” with the rest of the combined band.



## Joint effort makes beautiful music

**Story and Photos by  
Sgt. Sara A. Carter**  
*Community Relations Chief*

No one could miss the big, neon sign outside of the Hawaii Theater in Honolulu that read, “Combined Military Band Concert,” or the crowds of people who lined the streets nearly two hours before the concert was to begin Saturday night.

As part of Hawaii Military Appreciation Month, the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce hosted a free Combined Military Band Concert.

Almost every seat in the theater, which holds approximately 1,400 people, was filled with young and old alike. The attendees clapped as the combined band, comprised of band members from all branches of service to include the Army’s Old Guard, began to play.

With Army Chief Warrant Officer Gregory Balvanz, Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps on the podium, it was

time to begin the concert. The group started with “Inventions on Marching Songs” by James Barnes and “Who Puts His Trust in God Most Just” by J. S. Bach/Croft

After the applause subsided, Staff Sgt. Tracy Martinez, senior enlisted conductor, Marine Forces Pacific Band took the stage to lead the group. They began with an arrangement by Robert W. Smith called “Inchon.”

The soft sound of a flute gently floated through the air. A drum in the back of the theater could be heard being tapped softly. As the beat began to get louder it seemed that all at once drums strategically placed around the theater were beat loudly to represent the landing of a helicopter.

“It sounded like a helicopter was really landing in the theater,” a wife whispered to her husband as she grabbed his hand.

Many watched the band as the sound from the drums decreased and the band began to play the intense

music representing the battle that took place on Inchon. After minutes of powerful music, the gentle sound of a flute again tenderly floated through the air.

According to the narrator, the soft sound of the flute represented a prayer being said.

The music again crescendos into beats of drums and loud explosions from various instruments and concluded with the beats from the drums representing the helicopter that was now leaving the scene. The song ended with one, solitary drum being hit softly in the corner of the theater.

The crowd was only silent for a moment then burst into applause.

Martinez then went on to conduct “In Storm and Sunshine” by J.C. Heed.

Other arrangements included “Those Magnificent Airmen and Their Flying Machines,” “Each Time You Tell Their Story,” “Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

A Special performance from 3rd United States Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps was also included in the program.

After a few more songs, the playing of TAPS and each service’s song the program was complete.



Nearly every seat in the Hawaii Theater in Honolulu was filled during the Comibined Military Concert Saturday. The event was hosted in honor of Military Appreciation Month during May.

The service members who participated in the concert, which lasted approximately two hours, only had three days of practice said Gunnery Sgt. Stephen Jeremiah, band master, Marine Forces Pacific Band.

“A show like this normally takes about six weeks to prepare for,” Jeremiah said. “Very talented musicians and conductors who know the

podium are why this was a success.”

Jeremiah, who did not participate in the event but sat with the audience, believes the concert was well received by the public.

“This is one of the top three performances the band looks forward to each year,” said Jeremiah. “Having a full house....It doesn’t get any better than this.”



This concert is the only time all branches of the service come together to perform. The service members who participated in the concert, which lasted approximately two hours, only had three days of practice.



# ‘Easy Rider’ stays active, fit

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**  
*Combat Correspondent*

He’s a Sailor, an expecting father and a bodybuilder. Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew Saguid is a busy man. He serves with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, the “Easy Riders,” as the aviation administration leading petty officer and the command fitness leader.

The 43-year old can be found frequently at the gym, bulking up for another bodybuilding competition. He is actively competitive in bodybuilding and has qualified to compete on the national level five times. “It’s a lot of fun, and it helps me stay in shape,” he said. Saguid is currently training for another national qualifying competition in November.

“I spend a lot of time at the gym; twice a day, three times a week,” he said.

Saguid was born in the Philippines, but moved to the Providence, Rhode Island in 1979 at the age of 15. He joined the Navy out of Boston in 1990 after earning his U.S. citizenship in 1986.

Saguid leaves HSL-37 and Hawaii in July to go to Washington aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln. His time on the Lincoln will be his last tour before his retirement. “I can’t wait to be a civilian again,” he said after reflecting on his already 17 years of service.

During his time in the Navy, Saguid has been to more than 25 countries. He said he is excited about his tour on the aircraft carrier because it will take him to Australia, one place he hasn’t been before. “I haven’t been to Australia yet and I’m looking forward to



Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew Saguid at his desk in the administration office of Hangar 3 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Saguid is the aviation administration leading petty officer for Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37.

Australia. I’ll do that on my last tour on the carrier.”

Once he’s out of the military, Saguid said he and his wife of three years, Giselle, plan on starting their own business. The couple is expecting their first child this month.

Saguid said right now he only wants one child, not 10 like the family he was raised in.

He was one of six boys and four girls born to the Filipino family. Most of his siblings still live in Rhode Island. Saguid’s younger

brother, Jonathan, serves in the Navy as well as a recruiter in Los Angeles. He is also on his last tour of duty before retirement.

Regardless of his time spent in the United States, Saguid still recognizes his Filipino heritage. Saguid

said his personal hero, and motivation for joining the Navy, is General Douglas McArthur.

“He pretty much helped the Philippines,” he said. “During World War II, he liberated the Philippines and I’m giving back the favor.”

## Hawaii Sailor fuels love of mechanics abroad

**Christine Cabalo**  
*Photojournalist*

When Petty Officer 2nd Class Irene Sotelo wakes up in the morning, it’s to the sight of the ocean she’s loved since childhood.

For Sotelo, the top perks of being stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are being near the water and visiting family in Waianae, Hawaii.

Serving in the Navy since 2001, the native Hawaiian said she loves coming home just as much as she enjoys working internationally during her deployments.

“I wanted to join the Coast Guard or the Navy,” said Sotelo, aviation machinist’s mate, Patrol Squadron 9. “I grew up around the ocean, and I wanted to stay near it.”

Annie Sotelo, the Waianae resident’s mother, said her daughter has always loved being in the water.

“She’s a natural surfer and swimmer,” said Annie. “I think if she had her way as a child, she would live at the beach.”

Close to her family, Irene took the advice of her uncle and grandfather to join the military. As retired soldiers, they encouraged the aviation machinist’s mate to travel and challenge her mechanical skills.

During her childhood, she would help her uncle fix old Ford cars. The Waianae resident said she remembered tagging along with her uncle and always asking him to show her how car engines work.

“She likes getting her hands dirty,” said Annie. “She was never an indoor person, she loves being outdoors. My daughter was always

interested in machines.”

Irene now works with bigger, more elaborate engines on naval aircraft like the P-3 Orion. It’s her job to check each plane’s engine for overall integrity, ensuring there are no foreign objects or loose bolts to interfere with performance.

The 27-year-old, who previously worked with the EA-6B Prowler, said working with the P-3 engines is much more complicated. Many systems are connected to the P-3 engines, and the Sailor needs to run tests on other plane parts like the propellers.

Working with naval aircraft engines has taken the six-year veteran out of Hawaii to spots such as Japan and Italy. Being internationally deployed was an exciting new experience, said Irene. Although during the months away, she missed eating traditional food like fish and poi.

Irene said she most enjoyed visiting Naples, Italy, and visiting with the local people reminded her of home. She said the small Italian communities have the same hospitable “aloha spirit” she misses while she’s deployed.

In the future, Irene said she would love to go back to learn the language and become a skillful Italian cook.

“I make a really good spaghetti,” she said. “When I was in elementary, the cafeteria would serve spaghetti for lunch. The way it was all mushy was great. I know most children don’t like it like that, but I loved it.”

Irene’s method of cooking is to boil the noodles until it’s soft, then



Petty Officer 2nd Class Irene Sotelo, aviation machinist’s mate, Patrol Squadron 9, stands near the type of P-3 Orion plane she maintains aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Sotelo, a resident of Waianae, Hawaii, said she enjoys being stationed near home so she can visit family.

bake the spaghetti. She said making the dish her way reminds her of how she had spaghetti in elementary school.

At a young age she knew what she liked to do, said Annie. While cleaning her home, Irene’s mother came across some old elementary school projects.

“I found something she did in the

first grade,” said Annie. “It was a sheet where you had to fill out the top ten things you would like to be. Number ten on her list was being a mechanic. Another thing she listed was making surfboards for a living.”

Irene said she’s spoken at her younger brother’s high school about her naval career, and she encourages all Hawaii residents to see what’s

outside the state. Her international deployments are sometimes hard for her family, and her mother said it’s always difficult to see her daughter go away.

“You never get used to it,” said Annie. “I’m so glad though she found something she loves to do. She works hard, but we just party harder when she gets home.”

## MOVIE TIME

**Prices:** Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

**Sneak Preview Policy:** One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Blades of Glory (PG13)  
Shooter (R)  
Meet the Robinsons (G)  
Are We Done Yet? (PG)  
Firehouse Dog (PG)  
Blades of Glory (PG13)  
Shooter (R)  
Are We Done Yet? (PG)  
The Reaping (R)

Today at 7:15 p.m.  
Today at 9:45 p.m.  
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.  
Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Friday at 7:15 p.m.  
Friday at 9:45 p.m.



# Airlines ask frequent flyers to be heroes

**Samantha L. Quigley**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — Ten airlines are stepping up to the plate for families of injured service members and encouraging their passengers to do the same.

“The president of CNN challenged his staff to do something over Memorial Day weekend,” Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications for the Fisher House Foundation, said.

“They looked around at a couple options and they decided that they would like to do a drive to get us more ‘Hero Miles.’”

The Fisher House Foundation is a member of America Supports You, a Defense Department program connecting citizens and corporations with military personnel and their families serving at home and abroad.

It also administers the Defense Department’s Hero Miles program, which provides free airline tickets to service members injured during their service in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families.

To get the ball rolling, CNN contacted all 10 of the Hero Miles program’s airline partners and asked if they would agree to a challenge.

The airlines agreed to match every frequent flyer mile their passengers

Considering Hero Miles has provided about 9,800 tickets, that’s more than \$12

“I use the terminology ‘close friends’ because if you’re young and single, it’s nice to have your mother and father there, but you probably really want your boyfriend or girlfriend,” he said.

“If that will help

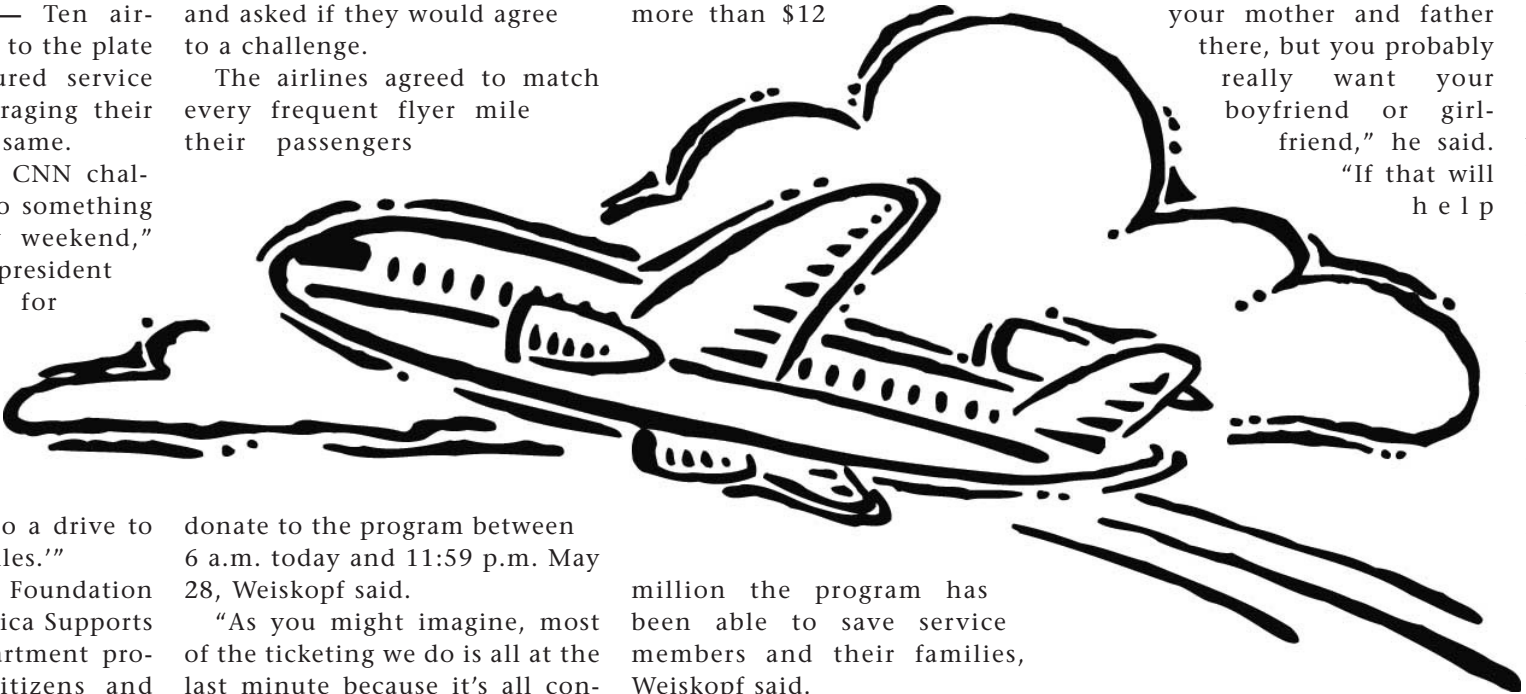
for medically necessary travel only.

Tickets for regular leave requests cannot be accommodated.

Though Hero Miles accepts donations of frequent flyer miles year-round, those who would like to make donations during this weekend when they’ll count twice as much can find links on each of the participating airlines’ Web sites. AirTran, American Airlines, Alaska Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta, Frontier, Midwest Airlines, Northwest Airlines, United, and U.S. Airways are participating.

Links to these airlines also can be found on the Fisher House Foundation’s “Hero Miles” Web page, [www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heroMiles.shtml](http://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heroMiles.shtml).

“We are so deeply appreciative for the generosity of the American flying public,” Weiskopf said. “Individually, (the airlines) have all told us that this is perhaps the most meaningful frequent flyer program that they have been associated with in the history of the airline because (the miles) are going right to the people who need them most.



donate to the program between 6 a.m. today and 11:59 p.m. May 28, Weiskopf said.

“As you might imagine, most of the ticketing we do is all at the last minute because it’s all connected to medical emergencies,” Weiskopf said. “Normally, the tickets we’re getting today are for flights leaving tomorrow and the day after.”

If service members’ families had to pay out of pocket, those tickets average more than \$1,300 each.

million the program has been able to save service members and their families, Weiskopf said.

That’s the equivalent of about 450 million miles in the three and a half years since the program began.

While Hero Miles makes sure any family member who wants to be at their service member’s side can be, it also covers what Weiskopf terms “close friends.”

you recover, we’ll bring them in.”

The same is true for any other person -- pastor or former coach, for example -- in a service member’s life who might inspire a speedy recovery, he said. He emphasized, however, that the tickets Hero Miles provides are

## Movie review: ‘28 Weeks Later’



**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**  
*Combat Correspondent*

*Editor's note: Hawaii Marine's combat correspondents will provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of a film currently in theaters or one of the many classics of yesterday. The rating system requires some explanation*

*before you get started.*

*If the film being reviewed is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of “microwaves” on a scale of one to four to rate its “reheat factor.”*

*If the film being reviewed is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to four.*

*In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.*



**Rating: 4 out of 5 service stripes**

When I think of horror movies, the idea of a disease outbreak doesn’t really scare me. Actually, it seems more like the kind of movie you’d have to watch in biology class in high school as a hypothetical situation.

The movie “28 Weeks Later” shot down that theory.

The sequel to “28 Days Later,” a plot where an epidemic breaks out in England, “28 Weeks Later” picks up where the first part of the movie leaves off. The disease effected people immediately upon exposure to infected blood, and caused people to lose total control. They become violent, rage-

filled bodies, seeking blood for sustenance.

It is now 28 weeks after the infection started. England has since been evacuated and quarantine. The infected persons have been left and starved off. The U.S. Army has moved in and is helping to reestablish London and find survivors from outside areas. Needless to say, the disease breaks out again and chaos ensues across England.

The movie seemed a little silly at times to me, with the Blitzkrieg-style bombing of a deserted city and the attempted helicopter escapes. It was obvious this film had a bigger budget than “28 Days Later,” and the director decided to show it off. I guess I’d do the same thing with a few extra million dollars.

The stereotypical characters were also slightly disappointing. There was the brave young boy trying to prove himself, the teenage girl who is angry at the world, the wimpy father, the sympathetic woman and the over-enthusiastic young soldier. The heroes, in true Hollywood fashion, came to their demise trying to save the world.

The movie inspires thoughts on the use of bio-terrorism by making you ask the question of what an entire country would do in such a situation. It evokes emotions of fear.

The movie in itself isn’t exactly scary, but the thought a situation like this is possible makes the movie a psychological thriller.



You walk away from the movie thinking about how the world would respond in a situation like that.

It not only delves into the political response, but also the personal responses of the characters and forces you to question what your own reaction would be; would you become one of the infected, or would you be one of the survivors?

## Book review: ‘Brave New World’

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Remember high school English class, when your teacher made you read books and tried desperately to have them mean something profound and significant to you?

I went through three years of Shakespeare, Twain and Emerson before I found that book. It was my senior year English class and our teacher introduced us to “Brave New World,” by Aldous Huxley.

“Brave New World” gives its reader a glimpse of where the world will be if society continues down the path it is on. The seemingly utopian world Huxley thrusts the reader into proves, essentially, to be a dystopia.

There is no poverty, no crime and no war, but there is also no understanding of

words like “home,” “motherhood” and “family.”

There is a small part of society that questions their utopian lives, dare to get pregnant and fall in love and possess the estranged idea of individualism.

These people are sent to a reservation to live like savages. When one of them is brought into the “real world,” he is shocked at the state of affairs the world was in.

Through his character John the Savage, Huxley asks the reader to consider where the failings are with trying to create a “perfect” society. While the idea of a peaceful society is ideal, Huxley asks the reader to consider what price society is willing to pay.

Are we willing to sacrifice all that makes humanity beautiful?

Are we willing to give up all freedom and individuality for a false sense of happiness?

The novel brings to light all that we, society as a whole, take for granted. Things like love and family, even painful things like childbirth and heartache are obsolete in Huxley’s “utopia.”

While Huxley argues that it is emotions that bring forth the evils in the world like war and poverty, his novel suggests that it is not worth losing the positive emotions in life to be rid of the negative ones.

In the beginning of the book, the idea of a perfect society seems appealing to the reader, but as the novel continues distaste for the idea grows.

As you read further, you begin to agree with Huxley’s warning of embracing science as a means to a perfect world.

“Brave New World” opened my eyes to the world we live in. The society is far from peaceful, it’s full of troubles and turmoil, but its imperfection proves that it is still real.

The novel made me thankful for every emotion I’ve ever experienced, from happy times to broken hearts.





# Word to Pass

## Vail resort honors America’s service members with special military package

This summer, the Vail Cascade Resort & Spa in Colorado is providing America's service men and women with a special vacation offer. The property, managed by Destination Hotels & Resorts, is offering a special Military Package, which includes an \$89 per night room rate for active military personnel plus 40 percent off spa treatments at Aria Spa & Club and 40 percent off food and beverage at Chap's Grill & Chophouse.

The resort will offer the Military Package beginning Memorial Day weekend, which historically is a time of remembrance for those who have served in our nation’s armed forces. The package is valid now through Sept. 15. Service men and women taking advantage of this special offer must provide valid military identification upon check-in. Other restrictions may apply.

For more information on the Vail Cascade Resort & Spa or to book the property's special Military Package, please visit [www.vailcascade.com](http://www.vailcascade.com) or call (800) 420-2424. Please use promotional code MILITARY when booking online or reference this code when speaking to a reservations agent.

## Hunter Education Classes

Hunter Education Classes are being offered by the Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources today from 5:45 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. The classes will be held at the Waialua Elementary School cafeteria located at 67-020 Waialua Beach Road. Subjects to be covered include: firearms and archery safety, survival and first aid, wildlife identification and conservation, and many other topics. The class is open to anyone 10 years of age and above. For more information or to pre-register, call the Hunter Education Office at 587-0200.

## Diamond Head Crater Festival

The number one music experience of the year will be held under the stars inside the Diamond Head Crater in Waikiki at 2 p.m. Saturday. For information, call the hotline at 735-7000 or visit [www.cratercelebration.com](http://www.cratercelebration.com).

## Military Day at the Honolulu Zoo

A Military Appreciation Day will be held at the Honolulu Zoo June 2. This special event is open to military personnel and their families. Admission is free and the first 8,000 military ID cardholders can also enjoy a free lunch on the zoo lawn. Fleet bus transportation by Marine Corps Community Services departs the exchange annex at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 3 p.m.

## DivorceCare

Seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable DivorceCare resources to help.

The meetings are held every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church at Koolau, 45-550 Kionaole, Kaneohe. Childcare provided with advance notification. For more information, go to [www.divorcecare.com](http://www.divorcecare.com) or call 532-1111.

## University of Oklahoma Courses

The University of Oklahoma is now accepting applications and registration for the Summer term. OU is proud to offer a Master of Arts in Managerial Economics on Hickam AFB. Contact OU at 449-6364 or [aphickam@ou.edu](mailto:aphickam@ou.edu) for more information, or visit [www.go.ou.ou.edu](http://www.go.ou.ou.edu).



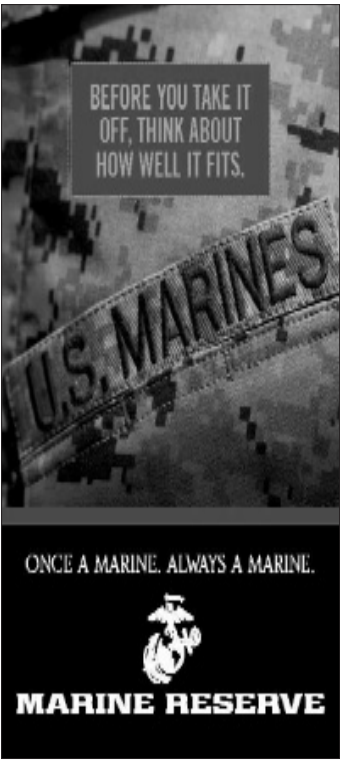
## SM&SP

### Bayfest Volunteers needed to drive musical entertainment

Take advantage of this opportunity to be up close and personal with BayFest's bands including Alan Jackson, Gretchen Wilson and Three Days Grace! Runners must be flexible and have a valid driver's license. Contact the SM&SP coordinator 254-7593 or your SM&SP unit representative for more information.

### Shank and Slice Golf Tournament

Grab your friends and test your skills in the quarterly Shank and Slice golf tournament June 7 at Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course. Check-in is at 11:30 a.m. and the tournament launches with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. This event costs \$32 for E-5 and below and \$38 for E-6 and above and includes green fees, cart, prizes, food and sodas. Register by Thursday at the Semper Fit Center or call 254-7593.



# ON THE MENU

## AT ANDERSON HALL

<b>Friday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Roast turkey Lemon baked fish fillets Baked macaroni & cheese Garlic roasted potato wedges Mixed vegetables Lyonnaise carrots Cream gravy Peach pie Chocolate chip cookies Spice cake w/lemon butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lemon/orange gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Country Bar</i>  <i>Dinner</i> Chili conquistador Chicken cacciatore Burritos Refried beans Spanish rice Simmered corn Green beans Taco sauce Desserts: Same as lunch	Boston cream pie Shortbread cookies Yellow cake w/butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lemon/raspberry gelatin  <b>Sunday</b> <i>Dinner</i> Oven roast Honey glazed Cornish hens Rice pilaf Savory bread dressing Asparagus w/hollandaise sauce Simmered squash Creole Brown gravy Pumpkin pie Oatmeal cookies Devil's food cake Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/lime gelatin  <b>Monday</b> <i>Dinner</i> Beef stew Baked fish fillets Baked macaroni & cheese Wild rice French fried okra Buttered corn Cream gravy Pecan pie Chewy nut bars Spice cake w/butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lemon/strawberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Pasta</i>	<b>Tuesday</b> <i>Dinner</i> Turkey ala king Salisbury steak Parsley buttered potatoes Glazed carrots Club spinach Brown gravy Double chocolate chip cookies Yellow cake w/chocolate chip frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Cherry/orange gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Taco bar</i>  <b>Wednesday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Chili macaroni Roast turkey Grilled cheese sandwich Mashed potatoes Simmered pinto beans Simmered mixed vegetables Turley gravy Cheesecake w/cherry topping Peanut butter cookies Peanut butter cake w/peanut butter frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lemon/raspberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Hot dog &amp; sausage</i>  <i>Dinner</i> Meat loaf Pork ham roast Mashed potatoes Tossed green rice Cauliflower combo	Broccoli w/cheese sauce Brown gravy w/mushrooms Desserts: Same as lunch  <b>Thursday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Swiss steak w/brown gravy Chicken Parmesan Rice pilaf Oven browned potatoes Corn on the cob Simmered peas & carrots Brown gravy Blueberry pie Brownies White cake w/lemon cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/cherry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Deli bar</i>  <i>Dinner</i> Beef Yakisoba Sweet & sour pork Shrimp fried rice Steamed rice Simmered broccoli Fried Cabbage w/bacon Chicken gravy Desserts: Same as lunch
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“ Now that we know you're Qualified to Join...,  
Let's jump right into the Dental Benefits!”



# Did you know?



- The number of U.S. armed forces personnel who served in World War II between Dec. 1, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, was 16.1 million.
- The average length of active-duty by U.S. military personnel during WWII was 33 months.
- The proportion of U.S. military personnel who served abroad during WWII was 73 percent.
- The average time U.S. personnel served overseas during WWII was 16 months.
- A total of 292,000 U.S. soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Marines were killed in battle in WWII.
- The number of other deaths sustained by U.S. forces during WWII was 114,000.
- 671,000 U.S. troops were wounded during WWII.
- 5.7 million World War II veterans were counted in the 2000 Census. The census identified the period of service for World War II veterans as September 1940 to July 1947.

- The estimated number of WWII veterans living in California in 2002 was 475,000, the most in any state. Other states with high numbers of WWII vets included Florida (439,000), New York (284,000), Pennsylvania (280,000), Texas (267,000) and Ohio (208,000).
- The estimated number of women in 2002 who were WWII veterans was 210,000. These women comprised 4.4 percent of WWII vets.
- The proportion of all veterans in April 2000 who were WWII veterans was 22 percent.
- The median age of WWII veterans when the last census was conducted was 76.7 years old.
- The proportion of WWII veterans who were still employed in 2000 was 11.6 percent.
- The number of WWII veterans in 2002 who received compensation for service-connected disabilities was 440,000, about half the number in 1990 (876,000) and nearly two-thirds less than the nearly 1.2 million disabled WWII vets in 1980.
- The projected national expenditure for veteran's benefits in 2004 was \$62 billion.

Data courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau.



# AROUND THE CORPS

## Combat Outpost in Iraq gets 'ice cream truck'

**Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser**  
*2nd Marine Division*

**COMBAT OUTPOST RAWAH, Iraq** — Combat Outpost Rawah and the Marines who call it home, recently received a permanent post exchange here.

The COP, which is 150 miles northwest of Baghdad and 50 miles east of the Syrian border, has recently undergone numerous changes to improve safety, hygiene, and quality of life. Prior to the permanent exchange, the outpost would get a visit from a mobile exchange about twice each month.

“We are here to provide the Marines, soldiers and sailors with the basic necessities, as well as a few niceties, of home,” said Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Daugherty, a retail Marine with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2.

The exchange offers a wide variety of hygiene items, operational gear, electronics, CDs, DVDs, snacks and drinks.

“Knowing we are always here gives them a peace of mind. They know they don’t have to worry about running out of something,” said Daugherty, a native of New Castle, Penn. “Plus it has a huge impact on morale because now they know they don’t have to wait two or three weeks for things they need.”

“It’s always good to have a PX around,” said Pvt. Phillip A. Fowler, a scout with the battalion’s quick reaction force. “It improves morale and everyone’s everyday attitude. Most of us don’t get a lot of packages, so it’s nice to have somewhere to go where we can get the same things we have access to at home.”

The Marines who work at the exchange say they can see the difference they make on the outpost.

“You can see it on their face. It’s like driving an ice cream truck: when people see us around their eyes just light up,” said Sgt. Alex R. Soto Lopez, the battalion’s retail manager. “We are so isolated here in the desert, the small comfort of being able to buy something that you can get back home has a tremendous impact on your mentality. It can’t help but improve the mood and performance here.”

The Marines who work at the exchange say they take pride in providing whatever comforts they can to their fellow brothers-in-arms.

“Unlike shops in the civilian world, this place isn’t here just for the dollar. It’s our responsibility to make sure we provide whatever we can to the troops,” said Soto Lopez, a

native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico. “We make sure we get out to even the most remote (traffic control points) so that everyone is taken care of.”

The PX Marines say although they know the comforts they provide are no substitute for being home, they hope the things they offer help bring home a little closer to the desert.



Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser

Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Daugherty (left), retail Marine, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, hands a Marine his purchase in the COP’s new post exchange.

